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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AID-01	AMAD-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00
	CIAE-00	SJK-01	CTME-00	C-01	DODE-00	DS-00	FBO-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INM-01	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03
	ADS-00	M-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OMB-01	OPR-01
	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-01	SP-01
	SR-01	SSC-01	SSO-00	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	USSS-00

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P 052018Z FEB 92ZDK ALL DUE TO NUMEROUS SVCS

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6597

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE

AMCONSUL RECIFE

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

USIA WASHDC 7970

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRASILIA 01325

E.O.12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, BR, VE

SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN REACTION TO ATTEMPTED COUP IN
VENEZUELA

REF: BRASILIA 1210

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

DATE/CASE ID: 17 AUG 2006 200503206

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1. (C) SUMMARY: CLEARLY MINDFUL OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF A SUCCESSFUL MILITARY COUP ON BRAZIL'S BORDER, BOTH THE GOB AND UNOFFICIAL BRAZILIANS QUICKLY AND VEHEMENTLY CONDEMNED THE ATTEMPTED COUP IN VENEZUELA.
END OF SUMMARY.

QUICK GOB CONDEMNATION/EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR PEREZ

2. (U) THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOB REACTED QUICKLY AND FORCEFULLY TO NEWS OF THE ATTEMPTED COUP IN VENEZUELA. FOREIGN MINISTER REZEK WAS QUICKLY INFORMED. HE IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED PRESIDENT COLLOR, WHO ESTABLISHED TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ BEFORE 7:00 A.M. BRAZIL TIME AND ISSUED A STRONG STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE ACTION AND EXPRESSING "FULL SOLIDARITY" WITH PEREZ (REFTEL).

3. (U) IN REMARKS TO THE PRESS FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH COLLOR, REZEK SAID THAT HE EXPECTED THE SITUATION IN VENEZUELA WOULD SOON BE UNDER CONTROL AND SPOKE OF A
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"COLLECTIVE DETERMINATION" TO PREVENT THIS TYPE OF OCCURRENCE "ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD". IN ADDITION, SEVERAL MEMBERS OF BRAZIL'S CONGRESS CALLED ON VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR ALEGRETT TO EXPRESS THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH THE CONSTITUTIONALLY ESTABLISHED GOVERNMENT IN CARACAS.

MEDIA/PUBLIC REACTION

4. (U) BRAZILIANS OVERWHELMINGLY CONDEMNED THE COUP ATTEMPT. ON FEBRUARY 5 ALL BRAZILIAN PAPERS HEADLINED WITH SATISFACTION THE FAILURE OF THE COUP, WHICH WAS PORTRAYED AS THE IRRESPONSIBLE ACTION OF JUNIOR ARMY OFFICERS FRUSTRATED BY VENEZUELA'S THREE-YEAR ECONOMIC AUSTERITY PROGRAM. COMMENTARY WAS DISMISSIVE OF THE PLOTTERS' EFFORTS AND CRITICAL OF THE MILITARY IN GENERAL. "JORNAL DO BRASIL" IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "COUP NOSTALGIA," SAID THAT VENEZUELA, "THE CONTINENT'S OLDEST DEMOCRACY", HAD SUFFERED A MINOR TREMOR BUT WARNED THAT, WHILE THOSE BEHIND THE ATTEMPT HAD FAILED, THEY WOULD PROBABLY TRY AGAIN. "GAZETA MERCANTIL" RAN A CARTOON SHOWING PEREZ, STILL SMARTING FROM A BUMP ON THE HEAD, SPANNING THE MILITARY, PORTRAYED AS A CHILD. THE CHILD'S TOYS -- A SLING SHOT AND A BROKEN MODEL

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AIRPLANE (AN ALLUSION TO THE JANUARY 16 DOWNING OF A BRAZILIAN PLANE BY THE VENEZUELAN NATIONAL GUARD -- LAY ON THE GROUND).

5. (U) REPORTEDLY, BRAZIL'S MILITARY WAS "SURPRISED" BY THE COUP ATTEMPT "BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED VENEZUELA WAS STABLE." AMONG POSSIBLE FACTORS MENTIONED AS
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POSSIBLY CONTRIBUTING TO THE COUP ATTEMPT WERE THE "SEVERITY" OF VENEZUELA'S IMF-APPROVED ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT PLAN AND MILITARY DISSATISFACTION WITH THE GOV'S HANDLING OF THE PRESENCE OF BRAZILIAN SMALL-SCALE MINERS ("GARIMPEIROS") ON THE VENEZUELAN SIDE OF THE BORDER WITH BRAZIL (SEPTEL). "O GLOBO", WHICH HAS ADOPTED A MORE CRITICAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE COLLOR ADMINISTRATION IN RECENT MONTHS, SUGGESTED THAT BRAZIL MIGHT HAVE ACTED MORE FORCEFULLY AGAINST THE MINERS.

6. (C) COMMENT

BOTH OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL REACTION TO THE THWARTED COUP IN VENEZUELA REFLECTED RECOGNITION THAT A SUCCESSFUL COUP WOULD BE A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT. IN HIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BRASILIA 01325

E.O.12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, BR, VE

SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN REACTION TO ATTEMPTED COUP IN
CALL ON THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR, FEDERAL DEPUTY
MARILIO FERREIRA LIMA (PMDB - PERNAMBUCO) SAID THAT IF
THE COUP HAD SUCCEEDED IT COULD HAVE STIMULATED THE
MILITARY IN OTHER COUNTRIES TO FOLLOW THE SAME PATH,
"PERHAPS RESULTING IN A SEQUENCE OF COUPS, ENDING
DEMOCRACY ON THE CONTINENT." MELTON

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